



### A MESSAGE FROM CIERRA MORRIS, WEI DIRECTOR

Now that we're well into the spring semester, I'm proud of how strongly we closed out the fall, especially celebrating the 87 students who completed their certificate programs. This past semester reminded us to value every opportunity and to cherish every moment. Even when circumstances remained beyond our control, you remained resilient through challenging times. This spring, WEI remains focused on helping students persist, complete and transition into employment. I encourage you to embrace each step of your journey, knowing that every experience prepares you for the next hurdle. I challenge you to find your light and use it to impact your community in a positive way. It's up to you how you let your light shine.

Let's use our brightness to power forward this semester!

### STAFF DIRECTORY

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### NEW OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday: 8 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Friday: 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

### SAVE THE DATE

#### WEI Power Forward Career and Resource Summit

Wednesday, April 1 • 2-6 p.m.  
B Building • Student Center Cafeteria

- Discover your career path.
- Experience a "Day in the Life" session with employers.
- Connect directly with employers hiring right now.

#### WEI Completion Ceremony (2025-2026 Academic Year)

Thursday, June 4, 2026 • 5-6 p.m.  
B Building • Student Center Cafeteria



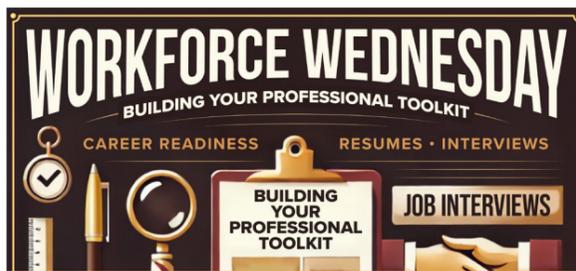
### Academic Excellence by the Numbers

We are proud to recognize our fall 2025 completers and celebrate the academic excellence demonstrated across programs. This semester, 87 students successfully completed their certificate programs, with many achieving strong academic outcomes that reflect their discipline and dedication.

- **Total fall 2025 completers:** 87.
- **GPA highlights:** 41 students earned a 4.0 GPA; 47 students earned a 3.0 GPA.

Program completions included Certified Nurse Assistant (10), EKG Technician (18), Emergency Medical Technology (15), HVAC Assistant Technician (22), Truck Engine Repair (4) and Truck Brake & Suspension (4).

Notably, all 22 HVAC Assistant Technician completers have continued forward and are pursuing the HVAC Technician Certificate – an important indicator of momentum and pathway progression.



### Workforce Wednesday Workshops

Have you attended our Workforce Wednesday Workshops? These sessions focus on the soft skills today's employers require for long-term career success – including communication, professionalism, workplace expectations and career growth strategies.

- Workshops take place every Wednesday at 3 p.m. (offered virtually and in-person).

### Team Update

WEI is excited to welcome Devlin Collins, our newest completion & transition specialist (CTS). Devlin oversees the HVAC, Electrical, Robotic Welding and Welding certificate programs, and is committed to supporting student persistence and academic performance.

- Academic focus: ensuring students stay above a 2.5 GPA, with a goal of maintaining a 3.0 program-wide average.



### Breaking Down Barriers

When unexpected circumstances impact our students, WEI responds quickly to reduce barriers and keep students on track. During the government shutdown, we coordinated emergency supports to address immediate basic needs.

- Provided emergency cafeteria vouchers for students experiencing food insecurity.
- Partnered with the dean of Students to connect impacted students to emergency housing resources.



### Strengthening Student Support

WEI continues to partner across campus to ensure students are supported academically, personally and professionally. This semester, our team collaborated with student services to connect participants to wellness and community-building opportunities.

- Partnered with the dean of Students to support student participation in the Mental Health, Identity and Community Conference hosted by the Counseling & Wellness Center.
- Enabled students to book appointments directly with WEI staff through Bookings with Me, making it easier to access support, stay on track and get help when needed.



### WEI 6 Grant Closeout Highlights

As we closed out the WEI 6 Grant cycle, we are proud of the outcomes achieved through student persistence, staff support, and strong campus and community partnerships. We remain committed to building on this momentum and continuing our efforts to drive our numbers even higher.

- 336 enrolled (124% of goal).
- 332 students from underrepresented populations (99%).
- 229 completers (68%).
- 154 completers employed (67%).
- \$20.63 average wage.

WEI is a grant program sponsored by the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB).

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